

# McG: Nixon Behind GOP's 'Sabotage'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern said today the reported involvement of White House aide H. R. Haldeman in Republican political sabotage and espionage "places the whole ugly mess . . . right squarely in the lap of Richard Nixon."

McGovern told a breakfast of labor supporters in Milwaukee that the report, published by the Washington

Post, should be alarming to all Americans.

" . . . That issue alone is enough to retire Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew from the White House," he said.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler denied that Haldeman had any connection with a secret fund for campaign spying on and sabotaging Democratic candidates, as the Post reported this morning, and de-

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announced the Post for what it called "character assassination" and "a vicious abuse of the journalistic process."

### Strongest Response

It was the strongest White House response to any publication in recent memory, much stronger than anything said in reply to previous stories in the Post linking the White House and the Committee for the Re-election of the president to sabotage of opponents.

The Post has published a series of such stories, naming among others former Attorney General John Mitchell, former commerce secretary and Nixon campaign finance chairman Maurice Stans and presidential appointments secretary Dwight Chapin, as having been linked to the "secret fund."

It has attributed its reports to federal investigators and accounts of sworn testimony before the federal grand jury investigating the break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in June.

Seven men are under indictment for that incident — known as the Watergate bugging — and one of them is a former White House aide.

### 'Now Traceable'

McGovern, quoting the Post, said the accounts "of political espionage . . .



H. R. HALDEMAN  
Named in fund charge

sion of our political process is traced right into the White House to the top man who sits day after day at the President's right hand."

"That's the crisis that confronts us in this country today," he said. "If the American people will think about what that means, that issue alone is enough to retire Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew from the White House."

### Draws Applause

That drew a round of applause from the union men and women who crowded a motel dining room to hear McGovern.

Ziegler, emphasizing that he was talking "as a spokesman for the White House," called the story "a political effort by the Washington Post . . .

difficult to establish that the newspaper's executive editor, Benjamin C. Bradlee, "is not a supporter of President Nixon."

The Post has not endorsed either presidential candidate.

Apart from denying that Haldeman had any connection with a secret fund, Ziegler insisted he has been informed that no such secret fund ever existed.

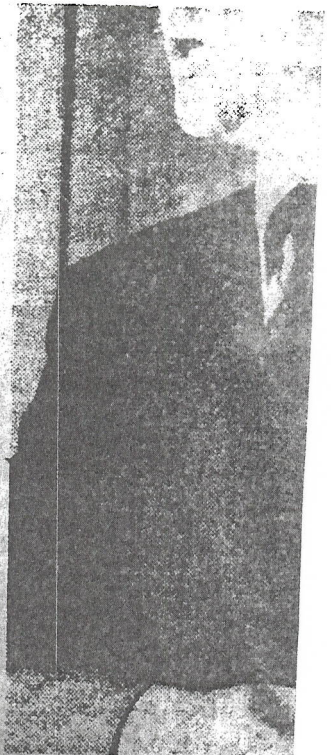
General Accounting Office investigators have reported that, earlier in the year, the Nixon campaign organization maintained a cash fund of amounts up to \$700,000 that was kept in Stans' office.

Asked to give the source of his statement that no secret fund exists, Ziegler said he had been so informed by John Dean III, White House special counsel who conducted an internal investigation for Nixon after the arrest of the Republican operatives in the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee.

### Aide's Report

The Post said it had been told that Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the Nixon campaign, told a federal grand jury Haldeman was one of five men authorized to approve payments from the reported cash fund.

Ziegler noted that the White House had denied the Post's story prior to its



"SHODDY AND SHAM"  
Ronald Ziegler attacks s

plied, "We have to out of self-protection."

He said he had discussed the subject in general terms with Haldeman but declared, "I haven't quite frankly discussed this with the President."

In today's account and in previous reports, the Post named these others as controllers of the fund:

• Mitchell, former attorney general and the first director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

• Stans, former Sec-